Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 1, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In recent years, ~~the~~ implementation of home networks, in which appliances ~~in a home~~ are connected in a home to share information, ~~to enable various contents to be shared between the appliances~~ has been pursued. In one form of ~~implementation of~~ a home network, a router is provided in a home, ~~and a~~An AV server, which accumulates information contents, ~~and~~ appliances including a personal computer (PC) and a digital television set are connected in a star configuration to the router. The router connects the network in the home to a network outside the home. The AV server in the home has the functions of temporarily storing various information contents obtained through the router from networks ~~existing~~ outside the home and ~~other~~information contents obtained from ~~some~~ means other than networks, ~~e.g.,~~such as digital broadcasting, and transmitting ~~any of the various~~ stored information contents to ~~one of the~~an appliances when receiving a request from ~~the~~another appliance.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 2, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When data for which a copyright exists, e.g., new films, pay television programs and ~~pieces of~~ music ~~is handled~~, there is a need to protect copyrights. As an effective method of protecting copyrights, a method is known in which data which needs copyright protection is encrypted to limit use of the data.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 2, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For example, in a case where there is a need to copyright-protect audio-visual data (hereinafter referred to as AV data) when the AV data is used and transmitted, the AV data is encrypted before being transmitted. For example, the DTCP (Digital Transmission Content Protection) system was standardized as such a ~~projection~~protection method.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 2, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The DTCP system has the function of performing authentication and the function of making a key ineffective. At the time of transmission of AV data, the DTCP system excludes unauthorized appliances, which have not been authenticated, and encrypts and transmits data which needs copyright protection~~,~~. ~~thereby~~This ~~inhibiting~~inhibits use of AV data with unauthorized appliances. Copyright protection is achieved in this manner.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 20, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a copyright protection system of Embodiment 1, a transmitting apparatus transmits a packet for measurement to distribution-destination receiving apparatus, measures the transmission time on the basis of a response from each receiving apparatus, compares the measured transmission time with two reference times, and classifies the transmission times into lengths of transmission time on the basis of the reference time. When the transmission time is equal to or shorter than reference time Tth1, the transmitting circuit determines that the probability of the receiving apparatus existing in a home is high and executes ordinary authentication count limitation processing. When the transmission time is longer than the reference time Tth1 and equal to or shorter than reference time Tth2, the transmitting circuit determines that the receiving apparatus ~~is probable to~~probably ~~exist~~exists outside the home and executes authentication count limitation processing so that the maximum authentication count is smaller than that in the ordinary case. When the transmission time is longer than the reference time Tth2, the transmitting circuit determines that the probability of the receiving apparatus existing outside the home is high and executes authentication count limitation processing so that the maximum authentication count is further reduced.